

“(I) the public health officer shall, on behalf of the designated officer involved, resubmit the request to the medical facility; and

“(II) the medical facility shall provide to the designated officer the appropriate response under subsection (c).

“SEC. 2695C. PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFICATION OF EXPOSURE.

“(a) CONTENTS OF NOTIFICATION TO OFFICER.—In making a notification required under section 2695A or section 2695B(d)(2), a medical facility shall provide—

“(1) the name of the infectious disease involved; and

“(2) the date on which the victim of the emergency involved was transported by emergency response employees to the medical facility involved.

“(b) MANNER OF NOTIFICATION.—If a notification under section 2695A or section 2695B(d)(2) is mailed or otherwise indirectly made—

“(1) the medical facility sending the notification shall, upon sending the notification, inform the designated officer to whom the notification is sent of the fact that the notification has been sent; and

“(2) such designated officer shall, not later than 10 days after being informed by the medical facility that the notification has been sent, inform such medical facility whether the designated officer has received the notification.

“SEC. 2695D. NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—After receiving a notification for purposes of section 2695A or 2695B(d)(2), a designated officer of emergency response employees shall, to the extent practicable, immediately notify each of such employees who—

“(1) responded to the emergency involved; and

“(2) as indicated by guidelines developed by the Secretary, may have been exposed to an infectious disease.

“(b) CERTAIN CONTENTS OF NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYEE.—A notification under this subsection to an emergency response employee shall inform the employee of—

“(1) the fact that the employee may have been exposed to an infectious disease and the name of the disease involved;

“(2) any action by the employee that, as indicated by guidelines developed by the Secretary, is medically appropriate; and

“(3) if medically appropriate under such criteria, the date of such emergency.

“(c) RESPONSES OTHER THAN NOTIFICATION OF EXPOSURE.—After receiving a response under paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (d) of section 2695B, or a response under subsection (g)(1) of such section, the designated officer for the employee shall, to the extent practicable, immediately inform the employee of the response.

“SEC. 2695E. SELECTION OF DESIGNATED OFFICERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of receiving notifications and responses and making requests under this part on behalf of emergency response employees, the public health officer of each State shall designate 1 official or officer of each employer of emergency response employees in the State.

“(b) PREFERENCE IN MAKING DESIGNATIONS.—In making the designations required in subsection (a), a public health officer shall give preference to individuals who are trained in the provision of health care or in the control of infectious diseases.

“SEC. 2695F. LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO DUTIES OF MEDICAL FACILITIES.

“The duties established in this part for a medical facility—

“(1) shall apply only to medical information possessed by the facility during the period in which the facility is treating the vic-

tim for conditions arising from the emergency, or during the 60-day period beginning on the date on which the victim is transported by emergency response employees to the facility, whichever period expires first; and

“(2) shall not apply to any extent after the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the expiration of the applicable period referred to in paragraph (1), except that such duties shall apply with respect to any request under section 2695B(c) received by a medical facility before the expiration of such 30-day period.

“SEC. 2695G. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

“(a) LIABILITY OF MEDICAL FACILITIES, DESIGNATED OFFICERS, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, AND GOVERNING ENTITIES.—This part may not be construed to authorize any cause of action for damages or any civil penalty against any medical facility, any designated officer, any other public health officer, or any governing entity of such facility or officer for failure to comply with the duties established in this part.

“(b) TESTING.—This part may not, with respect to victims of emergencies, be construed to authorize or require a medical facility to test any such victim for any infectious disease.

“(c) CONFIDENTIALITY.—This part may not be construed to authorize or require any medical facility, any designated officer of emergency response employees, or any such employee, to disclose identifying information with respect to a victim of an emergency or with respect to an emergency response employee.

“(d) FAILURE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES.—This part may not be construed to authorize any emergency response employee to fail to respond, or to deny services, to any victim of an emergency.

“(e) NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING DEADLINES.—In any case in which the Secretary determines that, wholly or partially as a result of a public health emergency that has been determined pursuant to section 319(a), individuals or public or private entities are unable to comply with the requirements of this part, the Secretary may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, temporarily suspend, in whole or in part, the requirements of this part as the circumstances reasonably require. Before or promptly after such a suspension, the Secretary shall notify the Congress of such action and publish in the Federal Register a notice of the suspension.

“(f) CONTINUED APPLICATION OF STATE AND LOCAL LAW.—Nothing in this part shall be construed to limit the application of State or local laws that require the provision of data to public health authorities.

“SEC. 2695H. INJUNCTIONS REGARDING VIOLATION OF PROHIBITION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, in any court of competent jurisdiction, commence a civil action for the purpose of obtaining temporary or permanent injunctive relief with respect to any violation of this part.

“(b) FACILITATION OF INFORMATION ON VIOLATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish an administrative process for encouraging emergency response employees to provide information to the Secretary regarding violations of this part. As appropriate, the Secretary shall investigate alleged such violations and seek appropriate injunctive relief.

“SEC. 2695I. APPLICABILITY OF PART.

“This part shall not apply in a State if the chief executive officer of the State certifies to the Secretary that the law of the State is substantially consistent with this part.”.

GIRL SCOUTS USA CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 621, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 621) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 621) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 314, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 314) designating the week beginning October 18, 2009, as “National Character Counts Week.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today Senator GRASSLEY and I have submitted a resolution designating the third week of October as National Character Counts Week. In the past, my good friend Senator Domenici and I worked together on the issue of character education, and I am pleased to be joined by my colleague Senator GRASSLEY in continuing to designate a special week to this cause. I hope that with this resolution we may highlight the importance of character building activities in schools not only this week but all year long.

Since 1994, when the Partnerships in Character Education Pilot Project was first established, I have worked to commemorate National Character Counts Week. Character Counts was founded on a simple notion: our core ethical values aren't just important to us as individuals—they form the very foundation of democratic society. We know that in order to face our challenges as communities and as a Nation, we need our children to be both well-educated and trained—and that begins with instilling character in our children.

Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship—these are the six pillars of character. Character education provides

students a context within which to learn those values and integrate them into our daily lives. Indeed, if we view education simply as the imparting of knowledge to our children, then we not only miss an opportunity, but as also jeopardize our future. Children want direction—to be taught right from wrong. Young people yearn for consistent adult involvement, and when they get it, we know they are less inclined to use illegal drugs, to vandalize or commit suicide. The American public wants character education in our schools, too. Studies show that approximately 90 percent of Americans support schools teaching character education.

Character education programs work. Currently, there are character education programs across all 50 States in rural, urban and suburban areas at every grade level. Schools across the country that have adopted strong character education programs report better student performance, fewer discipline problems, and increased student involvement within the community.

This renewed focus on character sends a wonderful message to Americans and will help reinvigorate our efforts to get communities and schools involved. With this resolution, it is my hope that even more communities will make character education a part of every child's life. I hope that my colleagues will support this important effort.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 314) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 314

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of this Nation become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their

families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of "National Character Counts Week", during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 18, 2009, as "National Character Counts Week"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, October 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for 90 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2892, an act to make appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security, as provided for under the previous order. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN. Under the previous order, there will be up to 3 hours 15 minutes for debate with respect to the Homeland Security conference report. If all time is used, the vote would occur around 4:15 p.m.; however, we may be able to vote as early as 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:31 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at 10 a.m.